



ARTS COURT THEATRE RESIDENT COMPANIES CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Background:

Arts Court is Ottawa's downtown centre for the performing, visual, literary and media arts and home to a critical mass of Ottawa's local professional arts organizations. The Ottawa Arts Court Foundation manages and operates the Arts Court Theatre and related performing arts spaces.

In its earlier years, Arts Court Theatre was home to four resident performing arts groups including two francophone theatre companies, a dance company and the Ottawa Fringe Festival which continues to be a resident company of the Arts Court Theatre.

This call is open to non-profit or charitable arts organizations producing in the disciplines of theatre, dance, music, new media and literary arts working in English or French or both languages for the presenting season beginning fall 2011.

Responding to Our Community

Based on a series of community consultations in 2008-2009 and an examination of best practices, the Ottawa Arts Court Foundation, the organization responsible for the operation and management of the Arts Court Theatre, Studio, Courtroom and Library spaces at Arts Court, has determined that it is now time to open up three new opportunities for local, professional arts producers in the form of Arts Court Theatre Resident Companies. This opportunity will contribute to the growth and nurturing of three new Resident Companies.

Benefits to Arts Court Theatre Resident Company Relationship

The premise of the Arts Court Resident Company program is based on a relationship between the Ottawa Arts Court Foundation and the Resident Companies. Resident companies have an ideal opportunity to showcase their work in Ottawa's downtown arts hub. Benefits to this relationship include:

- Assurance of a home presentation venue for a minimum of 2 presenting seasons
- Expansion of audiences across disciplines

- support from OACF marketing and communications efforts to promote to a much wider audience
- receive vital promotional and marketing data related to your specific events.
- Complete Box Office services
- Access to OACF staff in areas of marketing, communications, technical theatre, administration for consultation.
- Resident company venue rental rate (10% discount from non-profit rate)

For Arts Court and the OACF, the goal is to move the artistic work forward and develop artists and audiences. This type of relationship offers current and future Arts Court audiences more performances to choose from as part of an annual presenting season.

What the Resident Company/Organization is responsible for

- An initial commitment of hosting 2 public mainstage productions, events, series or anchor programming at the Arts Court Theatre and/or related spaces for two presenting seasons (provides time to build and assess our relationship and an opportunity for audiences to see a consistency of programming);
- Participating with OACF/Arts Court staff on initiatives designed to build audiences and support;
- Acknowledging Arts Court on promotional and marketing materials
- Linking to the Arts Court website
- paying the Resident Company rental rate for the time used and tech time

What Arts Court is responsible for

- Guaranteed facility use based on a negotiated schedule for an initial commitment of 2 presenting seasons
- Priority booking for rehearsal spaces
- Recognition as Arts Court Theatre Resident Company
- Inclusion in Arts Court annual presenting season brochure;
- Promotional and marketing support through our various mechanism including website, signage, newsletters and e-blasts
- providing box office services, ticket printing, ticket selling, on-line sales, 24/7
- providing valuable reports on attendees and important data to targets audiences for your future events and productions
- providing expert consultative services in marketing and technical production
- providing a link to the company's website
- upgrading the performance/presentation venue equipment to meet the needs of its resident companies as a priority where possible;
- ensuring no exact duplication of resident companies

Early in the 2nd season both parties will determine if the relationship continues to be mutually beneficial;

Criteria for Resident Company Status

- company/organization must be recognized as local, professional, or combination of professional/emerging arts organization;
- artistic disciplines eligible are: theatre, dance, music, new media, literary and integrated art forms;
- organization should be planning to produce at least 2 public productions/events or a series per presenting season;
- Organizations may be based anywhere in the greater Ottawa area
- organizations must function as non-profit and/or have non-profit or charitable status;

Submission Information Required:

To submit an application to the Arts Court Theatre Resident Company program, the following information must be submitted by the deadline date of August 31, 2010:

1. Cover letter addressing the following: 1) what benefits you hope to achieve through resident company status at Arts Court; 2) what benefits you feel your organizations would bring to Arts Court; 3) why you think this relationship would be a good fit; 4) sign the letter indicating your relationship to the company/organization (eg: Artistic Director, Administrator, etc.).
2. Name, address, phone, number, e-mail address and website of the company/organization
3. History and Mission of company or organization
4. List of primary artists, administrators, involved
5. List of Board Members (if relevant)
6. Past production history
7. List of productions/events planned for upcoming season
8. Description of production/events planned for next season (as much info as possible at this stage)
9. Estimate of how many weeks and/or days you expect to require the use of the Arts Court theatre and/or related spaces
10. Description of organization's financial strategies to operate and produce productions/events (eg: box office revenues, grants, fundraising, sponsorship, etc.).
11. Letter of support from an individual or organization that speaks to the artistic merit of your work.
12. Examples of reviews, media, promotions, programs, etc.

Selection Committee:

- Submissions will be reviewed by the Arts Court Theatre Advisory Committee and a selection of external artistic advisors. Recommendations will be made to the Board of Directors by the Chair of the Theatre Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors will have final approval.
- Up to three (3) companies/organizations will be selected based on artistic merit, organizational capacity, discipline featured, and fit within the overall goals of the OACF.

Submission Deadline:

August 31, 2010

Submit to:

Chair, Theatre Advisory Committee,
Ottawa Arts Court Foundation
2 Daly Avenue
Ottawa, ON
K1N 6E2

or via e-mail at

submissions@artscourt.ca

If you have any questions, contact:

Linda Balduzzi
Executive Director
Ottawa Arts Court Foundation
613-569-4821 ext. 232
director@artscourt.ca